

1. Reference: Amendment 001, Section L.6(f) replacing schedule for INTERVIEWS. The revised schedule has set aside "Quiet times" for the Group Interview, General Manager Interview, and each of the interviews for the three key people of the bidder's choosing.

With respect to the aforementioned "Quiet times," we would appreciate the DOE's clarifying their understanding as to whether or not the quiet time will take place in a room separate from the interview room; whether or not the key personnel will be sequestered during that time or able to contact their colleagues (other interview participants); and whether or not DOE will be present in the room during "Quiet time."

**Answer:** All interviews, including quiet time, will take place in the same room. A separate room will be provided for the offeror's use throughout the day. The key personnel will be permitted to caucus amongst themselves at the group interview. During the individual interviews, the general manager and the three selected key personnel will be sequestered and thus will not be able to contact their colleagues. A DOE representative will be present in the room during the quiet time. Quiet time has been scheduled to permit the interviewee(s) an opportunity to collect and organize their thoughts.

2. References: Section K.13, FAR 52.230-1 COST ACCOUNTING STANDARDS NOTICES AND CERTIFICATION (APR 1998):

a) Paragraph I.(a) "Any contract in excess of \$500,000 resulting from this solicitation will be subject to the Cost Accounting Standards Board (48 CFR Chapter 99)...."

b) Paragraph I.(3), Certificate of Monetary Exemption. "The Offeror certifies that the Offeror, together with all divisions, subsidiaries and affiliates under common control, did not receive net awards of negotiated prime contracts and subcontracts subject to CAS totaling more than \$25 million (Of which at least one award exceeded \$1 million) in the cost accounting period immediately preceding the period in which this proposal was submitted."

c) Federal Register: Volume 65, Number 25, Rules and Regulations. "On October 5, 1999, the President signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000...entitled "Applicability of Cost Accounting Standards...." Summary of Amendments contains the following: "Disclosure requirements: 48 CFR 9903.202-1(b) is amended by revising the dollar amount for disclosure from \$25 million to \$50 million...."

Did the DOE intend to limit the Certificate of Monetary Exemption for this procurement to \$25 million?

**Answer:** We will amend the RFP to increase the Certificate of Monetary Exemption to \$50 million.